York

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF GREAT DRIFFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st 1913.

The birth-rate is nearly 2 per 1000 lighter than last year, but the Infant Mortality is greatly increased, being nearly equal to what it was two years ago, but from a different cause; not to Infectious disease nor to Enteritis, but to Congenital defects.

The death-rate is also higher than last year, but not so high as the two previous years.

The number of births and deaths registered show that there were 126 births & 102 deaths, compared with 119 births and 76 deaths for last year.

Of the births there were 63 males and 63 females; as five of the births were transferable to other districts, the birth-rate was equal to 21.3 per 1000; last year it was 19.7; except for that and the year 1910 it is the lowest for six years. The birth-rate for Rural England and Wales was 22.2 per 1000.

Of the deaths there were 48 males and 54 females, giving a death-rate of 17.8 per 1000, but as 20 of them were non-residents, and 11 were residents not registered in the district, the crude death-rate was 16.3 per 1000. The corrected death-rate was 13.08 per 1000; last year it was 12.3; for England and Wales the death-rate was 13.4.

The Infant Mortality under one year was 18, compared with only 6 last year, and 20 two years ago. That is a high death-rate but it is due I think to lack of proper food, not to any defects in sanitation. The rate was 148.7 per 1000; last year it was only 53.6 per 1000. For England and Wales it was 109 per 1000. The most fatal period was from 65 years and upwards, the number being 44; under one year 18; between 45 and 65, 16; and between 25 and 45, 9; between 15 and 25, and 1 and 2, there were 3 each; there was no death between 2 and 15.

The causes of death were :—Whooping Cough 3, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 5, other Tuberculous diseases 2, Cancer 10, Heart Disease 15, Bronchitis 8, Pneumonia 4, Other diseases of the Respiratory Organs 3, Enteritis 2, Cirrhosis of the Liver 1, Nephritis 4, Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth 9, other defined diseases 26, ill-defined disease 1.

There were 16 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year, compared with 80 last year and 140 in 1911, viz. :—Diphtheria 5, compared with 58 last year and 113 the previous year, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 5, other Tuberculous diseases 2, Scarlet Fever 2, Erysipelas 2. There was no death from any of the Infectious diseases except Phthisis 2 deaths, and Tuberculosis of the Hip 1.

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis and the number of notifications are equal (7), but four of the cases in which death occurred were not notified last year.

The water supply for drinking purposes is of the best as I have had it examined chemically, that is the water supplied by the Driffield Waterworks. Well water is very often good, but is liable to become contaminated after heavy rains. Two samples were examined bacteriologically, and one was of a suspicious character.

The Housing accommodation of the Working Classes is improving in certain parts of the Town, and the following table will give information and particulars under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, Article V. :—

1.	Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of section 17 of the Act of 1909	303 (and 500 in 1912)
2.	Number of dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	7
	,, made fit for habitation without formal representation	Nil
3.	,, representations made to Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	7
4.	,, Closing Orders made	2
5.	,, in which the defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	318
6.	,, which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation ...	Nil
7.	,, voluntarily closed by Owners	5
8.	,, voluntarily demolished by Owners	Nil

9. General character of the defects found to exist :—Dilapidated Sanitary Conveniences (pail closets and privy middens), broken yard paving, bad type of gullies in foul condition.

10. The rents of the Cottages reported as unfit for habitation, five been unfit for some time, two were 1/10 per week.

The drainage of the Town is good; it is sewered throughout, and the drainage is purified by "filter beds" five acres in extent; the method is downward intermittent filtration and the effluent enters the Driffield Canal.

Public Scavengers are employed to remove house refuse and nightsoil in covered carts to the Filtration Area, when it is sold for Agricultural purposes.

Tub Closets and Water Closets are in vogue, the former are cleansed weekly.

Ashpits are cleansed monthly.

DETAILS OF SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1913.

Dwelling-houses inspected		380
„	disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	10
„	disinfected after cases of Phthisis	7
„	condemned as unfit for habitation	7
„	found over-crowded	6
Dwelling-house yards paved		6
New houses built		5
Number of Notices served (formal and informal)		94
„	complied with	94
Number of Nuisances found		7
„	abated	7
Number of defective privies and ashpits remedied, including new pans		84
New Ashpits made		11
Privies converted to w.c's		4
„	to pail closets	10
New w.c's		12
Number of defective house drains found		5
„	drains trapped or disconnected	Nil
„	new drains laid	Nil
„	drains re-laid	4
„	cesspools removed	1
„	New cesspools made	2
Water supplies.	Houses newly supplied from water mains	18
	New wells made	Nil
	New bore-wells made	Nil
	Wells closed—water unsafe	Nil
	Samples of water sent for examination	2
Nuisances from animals abated		8
Dairies and Cowsheds.	Number on Register	20
	Number of Cows	122
	Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	184
	Defects found	Nil
	„ remedied	Nil
Slaughter-houses.	Number on Register	10
	Visits to	24
Common Lodging-houses.	Number on Register	2
	Visits to	24
Canal boats inspected		54

Dairies and Cowsheds, 20 in number, with 122 Cows. The Cowsheds are lime-washed half-yearly, and the sanitary conditions are good in many cases.

A sample of milk was sent for examination by inoculation for tubercle but was found to be clear.

There were 66 Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, including :—Workshops, General Milliners, &c., 27 ; Joiners and Blacksmiths, 28 ; Bakehouses, 11 ; Total, 66.

There were 22 Inspections and 3 written notices.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BURGESS.

7th April, 1914.